A New Play Written Around Miss Loftus and Introducing Her Vaudeville Imitations-A Curious Story That Was Well Conceived by Israel Zangwill.

Cecilia Loftus disclosed herself last night at the Lyceum Theatre as a hub. She is the hub of a play, which revolves around her with the grace and celerity of a skidding automobile wheel on a wet road. The play is called "The Serio-Comic Governess" and it was written by Israel Zangwill.

Some day Mr. Zangwill, no doubt, will explain his play. It needs it. Just now there is ample room for doubt as to whether the production is explicable on any other grounds than those of emotional theatrical-

It is a sort of comic opera play with vaudeville specialties thrown in. Every one knows that Cecilia Loftus was one Cissy Loftus and did neat but not gaudy music hall stunts trimmed with imitations of prominent actresses.

The imitations were so good that Miss Loftus tried to be an actress whom other music hall goddesses might imitate. She finally reached the goal of all ambition, the legitimate. She acted Ophetia. Now she does her nest music hall stunts again, but this time in the second act of a play written for the purpose of introducing them. She is also the heroine of a most remark-She is a governess in a rich London family in the day time. In the night she appears at the Frvolity Theatre as Nellie O'Neill, queen of serio-comio singers. Certainly Mr. Zangwill never believed that any one else would believe in this for a single moment. Could he ever have believed in it himself? It is comic opera parading in respectable garments and trying to be decent by keeping out of the sceicty of ribald music.

and trying to be decent by keeping out of the society of ribald music.

This heroine has two lovers. One she meets while a school girl and idealizes in school girl fashion. The other she meets while a governess and does not love. The latter proves to be the real article. The first one, a soldier, goes to war and she waits for him. When he comes back he goes to see Nellie O'Neill, and leers and ogles at her from a box.

This disguists the governess. The other

ogles at her from a box.

This disgusts the governess. The other lover also goes to see Nellie and the next day calls and proposes. This does not disgust the governess. Here we enter boldly the happy domain of the gallery drama, and virtue strikes the rafters with the glory of its ascension, while the walls quiver with the applause of the godly who sit in the top seats.

Mr. Zangwill's sentiment in this play is of the dime novel order, but it is of the sort that is understanded of the people. His wit is of the style familiar to British bur-Yet he has done some clever

lesque. Yet he has done some clever character drawing.

The little convent girl who becomes a governess is lovable. The music hall singer is preposterous. The other music hall folk are all caricatures and consequently are frankly funny. The manager is worth his weight in gold. He is a real comedian.

Again the people in the home of the good lover, wherein the governess first governs, are excellently drawn, and the stage has not recently received a more delightful old vulgarian than Mrs. Maper of Holly Hall, perfectly embodied by Eva Vincent.

The play was well acted last night and for two acts looked like a thorough success. two acts looked like a thorough success. After the third act, however, interrogation points entered, and it will be for the public

points entered, and it will be for the public to wipe them out if it so pleases.

Miss Loftus, acted with much zest and with a good deal of technical skill in her comedy scenes. Her pathos would have been more interesting had its purport been at all times clear.

Herbert Standing made a fine figure of Josephs, the manager, and Julia Dean was competent as his wife, Marcelle. The other members of the company were acceptable. The play was neatly and tastefully staged and it had evidently been carefully rehearsed.

GOT STRAVALLI, POLICE SAY. There's Quite Enough Evidence to Convict

Him of Blowing Up His Shop. Police Captain Shire of the East Thirtyifth street station declared vesterday that Detective Sergeants Petrosino, Bonnoil, Farley and Brady had secured so much eviaccuse d of blowing up his own shop in Third avenue early on Monday morning, that Stravalli was almost certain of conviction. The detectives learned yesterday, they said, that while Stravalli did a fairly prosperous business he spent much of his time at card games and was unable to meet a number of financial obligations for that

valli and her two children at Thirty-eighth street and Second avenue yesterday. She told him that they had had scarcely anything to eat for several days, so he pro-vided the family with food.

Fire Marshal Seery laid the Stravalli Fire Marshal Seery laid the Stravalli case before District Attorney Jerome yeaterday. He was assured that the District Attorney's office will take up the prosecution in earnest. Assistant District Attorney Garvan will represent the prosecution in Yorkville court to-day.

Detective Sergeant Farley met Mrs. Stra-

COULDN'T BOX FRENCH STYLE. French Professors Did Up Cop Who Didn't Know the Savate.

Henri Andre, professor of the savate and Henri Jeanner, who can kick a bit himself, were trying to punch each other with their toes at Broadway and Thirtyfirst street, last night, when Policeman Reid took a hand. Reid does not know the

The Frenchmen ceased kicking at each other's faces and began to dance around the cop, whose weight is 240 pounds and whose motions are scarcely gazelle-like. Henri André kicked him in the eye and Henri Jeanner jabbad his toe neatly in the cop's nose. Reid struck out manfully, but he couldn't handle the elusive Frenchmen.

Callahan, from the Tenderloin station got there in time so save Reid from being seriously hurt. As it was, his uniform was a sight and his face had suffered. The savate experts were locked up in th Tenderloin station. They live at 462 Sixth

GOLD MEDAL FOR LIFE SAVER. Quinn, Who Has Saved Hundreds of Lives,

Now in Hospital. A gold medal was presented yesterday to

Cornelius F. Quinn, the swimming instructor and life saver, who is in the Lebanon Hospital undergoing treatment for a poisoned foot. Quinn is said to have saved

poisoned foot. Quinn is said to have saved feveral hundred lives at Palm Beach, Fla., Mathattan Beach and other places.

About a week ago he saved an eleven-year-old boy, Charles Wesel of 921 Tinton avenue. The Bronx, off Clason's Point. While he was carrying the boy ashore Quinn stepped on a rusty nail. Inflammation followed, and Quinn was taken to the Lebanon Hospital, where his foot will probably be amputated to-day.

When young Wesel's father heard of the rescue of his son and the accident to Quinn he decided to present the life saver with a medal.

Manhattan Theatre to Open To-night.

The Manhattan Theatre will open this evening with Mrs. Fiske and the Manhattan company in "Becky Sharp." This will be the first appearance of the new permanent company that Harrison Grey Fiske has organized, with Mrs. Fiske at its head. It is to make the Manhattan Theatre its form, and during its season will appear a number of productions and revivals. John Mason and George Arlies have promitent roles in "Becky Sharp."

Some September Stories. There used to be a society game, which

may, for aught we know, be still played etimes in remote parts, where an outline of a plot was agreed upon and the par-ticipants improvised their parts in a little comedy. It was a faraway survival of the early days of the drama and the Italian comedy with Scaramouch and Pantaloon and Columbine and the rest. It is on that plan that a slight, amusing story with s thoroughly conventional plot is developed in "The Affair at the Inn" (Houghton, Miffin & Co.). The four characters who appear are assigned to four different authors, each of whom tells his or her part of the story. The lively American young person falls to the share of Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin, the British Baronet to Mr. Allan McAulay, the comic old woman and the sentimental elderly spinster to Mary and Jane Helen Findlater. An automobile brings the piece up to date. The ove business that makes up the story is pleasant, the actors are clever and entertaining, so that the lengthening out of a short story to a volume is excusable. It is evidently a book for summer reading, so that its publication now seems a little beated.

For a dialect story Mr. Will N. Harben's The Georgians" (Harpers) has some merit-There are scenes and incidents that are well described and bits of psychology of the poor whites of the South, here and there, that are taken from life. The hero and chief actor is Abner Daniel, whom the author has depicted in former books, a sort of rustic Sherfork Holmes or fairy godmother. The story, however, is not well constructed, and not particularly interesting. The lack of probability in the main incidents is not entirely due to the author's evident desire to drag in Abner Daniel, right or wrong The rascally friend of the negro we havemet before, and, if we are not mistaken, in Mr. Harben's own books; the ease with which he is discomfitted is due in part, w suspect, to a desire to get away from A Daniel's eloquence at any cost. The book 's the great advantage of not being "illustrated."

A mysterious murder in "The Red Window," by Fergus Hume (G. W. Dillingham Co.), starts a sort of "hunt the slipper game for the murderer. The reader is led on half a dozen plausible false scents before the true culprit is revealed, and is tangled up with other intricacies. It is a machine made story, no worse than many others of the sort, but a long way behind the "Hansom Cab."

Two little books that were much read half a century ago, Mrs. Anne Manning Rathbone's "The Maiden and Married Life of Mary Powell" and "Deborah's Diary" are published in a single volume with illustrations by John Nimmo and Charles Scribner's Sons. In an introduction the Rev. W. H. Hutton contrives to give singularly little information about the author, whose list of stories is very long. The stories present the life of John Milton, as seen by his female relatives, in the form of diaries put in the conventional old fashioned English, which is made up chiefly of misspelled common words. The book is as entertaining as most historical novels of the day, nevertheless.

Another reprint in gorgeous form is Mr. Thompson Buchanan's "The Castle Comedy" (Harper's) with illustrations and decorations by Elizabeth Shippen Green. The print is brown and the decorations green; the pictures in color are not bad, but neither are they particularly attractive nor have they much significance. The story is a bit of sentimental foolery of the romantic historical sort that is amusing in its way. The behavior of most of the persons in it s unconventional and their motives and actions unusual outside of lunatic asylums. That, however, seems to be a requisite for latter-day tales of adventure. There is ve, and fighting, and various es

A British Humorist in Rhyme.

If they will pay no attention to military cience and can let the lessons of the South African War pass unheeded, it is a comfort to find that the officers of King Edward can dence against Joseph Stravalli, the barber | at least turn out comic opera librettos and write funny verse. Mr. Harry Graham, whose pen-name is Col. D. Streamer, indicating his regiment, in "Misrepresentative Men" (Fox, Duffield & Co.) offers a dozen or so of short skits, all modelled on one pattern that are improvements in taste and in execution on his "Ruthless Rhymes", which, perhaps, is not saying much. There are reminiscences of Mr. Gilbert and Lewis Carroll, and there is a strong tinge of the infantile-school of Mr. O. Herford and his set in the verses, but some of them are clever and occasionally have a very funny turn, while some lines are very good. The author is remarkably successful in avoiding mistakes in his American allusions. hough his view of President Roosevelt is wholly British one. The book is declicated, by picture, to a charming and popular young

A View of Narragansett Bay.

An attractive description of the pictresque part of Rhode Island has been drawn with pen and pencil by Mr. Edgar Mayhew Bacon in "Narragansett Bay" (G. P. Putnam's Sons). The author has the right idea of a book of the kind, and dwells on the natural beauties, the legendary and historical associations, rather than on the present appearance of the shores. The Newport he describes, for instance, is devoid of the summer dwellers and the palaces they have erected. He gives us an interesting voyage around the waters of the bay, has plenty to say of Providence and of Bristol, and has put together much that has been sung about the region in verse of all sorts. The pictures are attractive, if not particularly strong: some seem to be taken from photographs, but most have the indefiniteness of water

A Puff of the Kalser.

Personal memoirs made up from newspaper clippings and like authoritative sources are one of the annoyances of modern in Paris" started a lot of far less competent and well-informed imitators. From the hand which furnished a deplorable book on the court life of Austria we now have a similar work on that of Prussia "Imperator et Rex. William I. of Germany." (Harpers.) Fortunately the author approves of the Kaleer, so that instead of detraction and what tittle-tattle has appeared in the press, we find here fulsome praise. From the cradle to his present sedate middle age William II. has done nothing but what was noble and

great. Such a view necessarily involves de-traction of his father and mother, together with the people who surrounded them. Some benighted persons looked on these as the most enlightened group in Germany, those who, if Frederick III. had been spared, might have introduced liberal ideas into the government and saved it from militarism and social democracy. We doubt whether, even in German, the events of Wilhelm II.'s life have been related in such audatory and grandiloquent phrases. The many fanciful pictures of that worthy are ludicrous enough to temper the sulegy of the text.

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LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

The hot corn belt in New York city has nifted completely in the last few years. Sixth avenue corners used to shelter black "mammies" and their masculine aides until a short time ago, when the change in the patrons of the hot corn purveyers carried

patrons of the hot corn purveyers carried them over to Seventh avenue. They propered there until last summer, when the number diminished so greatly that it was only at long intervals that this refreshment was to be found.

It is plentiful still in the Ghetto, which has taken with zest to this American dish. The men and women to be found there on all sides do not, like the former uptown establishments, confine their business hours to the evening. They are there, to be sure, early in the morning. But they also ply a brisk trade all day. An admirer of President Roosevelt who

lives in Brooklyn has a poster in his store window which has attracted considerable attention and no little argument. It says on it: "For Mayor, Theodore Roosevelt," and there is a picture of the President as he looked when he ran for Mayor of New York in 1886. Some who see the poster wonder if Mr. Roosevelt is a candidate for President or for Mayor.

"Give me the key to 113, please," he said to the clerk behind the desk of a Broad-

to be sure that he was not an impostor. Sneak thieves are up to all sorts of games these days." One of the hotel ticket dealers does not confine his trade to the New York theatres, but offers to supply his patrons with seats in other cities. Boston and Philadelphia,

which appear on his list, do not seem strange but St. Louis and Cincinnati, where he offers to secure good seats in the theatres, look like more difficult propositions. He admits frankly that he has so far had no applications for seats in those distant places, but says he could certainly get them if they were demanded. Many hotels near the city would like to keep their doors open for several weeks longer and could find guests to occupy them profitably. But the servant question

has even more effect in such cases than in ordinary private houses. After the first of September, hotel proprietors find it all but impossible to keep servants, who are seized with a desire to reach New York, seized with a desire to reach-New York, that even money cannot control. The promise of increased wages leaves them cold and they yield to no persuasion in thair enthusiasm to get back to New York and find employment for the winter. One disconsolate hotel proprietor returned to his country hostelry yesterday after a tour of the employment offices to tell his patrons that he closed this week unless they could reconcile themselves to one waiter for every twenty guests..

In a small hotel in Pearl street there is a tame white rat with a stump for a tail. Some time ago an elderly Swiss came there to live. His sole companion was a white rat. Later the man married and returned to Switzerland. His wife objected to travelling with the rat, so it was put in a bird cage and left in the hotel with the cat "jes" waitin." Shortly after the departure "jes' waitin'." Shortly after the departure of the Swiss the room was taken by a young man. The first night in the house the new lodger was somewhat startled to find company in his bed in the shape of a rat, but he soon discovered that the rat was tame, and since that time Jim—the rat—has his corner of the bed every night.

So far from the beaten track of travel that it must be especially sought out by its customers is a restaurant with a specialty of which it is not ashamed. In front of an of which it is not ashamed. In front of an old fashioned brick residence far over on on the West Side is a sign describing the place as "The Spaghetti House." It is a weatherbeaten tin affair and shows that the establishment is not of recent origin. Thither journey admirers of this filling dish, who admit that the proprietor, by the skill of his cook in preparing spaghetti, is justified in naming the restaurant after it, although other food is not excluded from the bill of fare.

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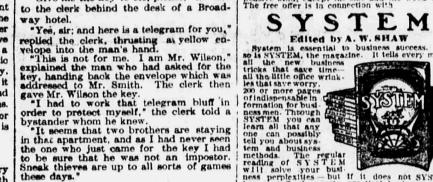
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